SPORT FISHING IN NOVA SCOTIA, 2000

NOVA SCOTIA

Agriculture and Fisheries
Inland Fisheries Division

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This report summarizes the results of a survey of sport fishing in Nova Scotia in 2000. The purpose of the survey was to provide information on the numbers and places of origin of anglers, their expenditures and investments to fish in the province, the numbers and kinds of fish harvested, the amount of fishing effort expended, and the quality of the sport in Nova Scotia.

The survey was conducted by the Inland Fisheries Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in co-operation with Statistical Services, Economic Analysis Division of the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa. The study was part of a national survey that has been conducted every five years in the provinces and territories since 1975.

Questionnaires were sent to 2,414 persons who purchased recreational fishing licenses in Nova Scotia in 2000. Fifty-five per cent (1,322) of the questionnaires were completed and returned. The information contained in these questionnaires was used to calculate the survey results outlined in this report. The sample group was considered representative of the licensed participants in the sport fishery in Nova Scotia.[1]

Resource Base

Nova Scotia has a land area of 53,000 square kilometers, which includes some 6,700 lakes, 100 rivers, innumerable brooks and 7,442 kilometers of coastline. Thirty-eight species of fish inhabit the province's fresh waters and some 300 saltwater species are found in Nova Scotia's estuarial and coastal waters.

The main species fished by anglers are trout (three species), smallmouth bass and smelt. Other species of interest include Atlantic salmon, striped bass, landlocked salmon, white and yellow perch, bullhead, eel, chain pickerel, mackerel, cod, pollock, flounder and tuna. Overall, speckled (brook) trout is the most highly preferred and sought after species in Nova Scotia.

Angler Profile

Two types of recreational fishing licenses are issued by the province of Nova Scotia: a general license and a salmon license. All anglers must purchase a salmon license to fish salmon. To fish species other than salmon in the province's fresh waters, a general fishing license is required by all anglers except those under the age of 16. A license is not required to fish most saltwater species.

In 2000 there were 64,621 licensed anglers[2] in Nova Scotia, 91 per cent (58,524) of whom fished (Table 1). Of those who fished, 96 per cent (56,031) were residents of the province and four per cent (2,493) were non-residents. There were also 16,848 young people under the age of 16 living in licensed angler's households that fished, bringing the estimated number of active anglers in the province to 75,372. The number of active anglers under the age of 16 is likely underestimated in this survey since only those in households with a licensed angler were included.

The average age of all active resident anglers was 46 years, compared to 49 years for active non-resident anglers. Approximately 88 per cent of active resident anglers and 93 per cent of active non-resident anglers were male. Table 1 shows that the proportion of active female resident anglers has remained relatively stable since 1980 ranging from a high of 12.3 per cent in 1985 to a low of 8.5 percent in 1990, suggesting although there have been measurable increases in female participation, angling is still a predominantly male sport.

Fifty-four per cent of the non-resident anglers were from Canada, while 38 per cent were from the United States, and the remaining 8 per cent were from Europe. Table 3 shows that between 1985 and 2000 the number of non-resident anglers has remained relatively stable at about 4 per cent of total licensed anglers.

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[1] A substantial fishery exists by unlicensed anglers. No license is required to fish for recreation in saltwater, nor are children under the age of 16 required to purchase a license for freshwater angling (except for Atlantic salmon).

[2] This estimate is less than license sales (66,259) because a single angler may hold two types of licenses.

Table 1. Numbers and characteristics of anglers in Nova Scotia in 2000.

	Residents	Non-residents		Total
		Canadian	Other	
Total Licensed Anglers	62,035	1,405	1,181	64,621
Active License Anglers				
Males	49,513	1,249	1,067	51,829
Average Age	46	48	50	46
Females	6,518	71	106	6,695
Average Age	40	46	43	40
Total Active Licensed Anglers	56,031	1,320	1,173	58,524
Children under 16 yrs.*	16,553	180	115	16,848
Total Active Anglers (all ages)	72,584	1,500	1,288	75,372

* Only includes household which had licensed anglers. The total number of anglers under the age of 18 was estimated at 112,000 in 1974.

Fishing Effort

Angling continues to be a major recreational activity in Nova Scotia. Licensed resident and non-resident anglers spent a total of 1.2 million days fishing in Nova Scotia in 2000, of which 78 per cent of those days were in fresh water and 22 per cent were in salt water. Fishing effort is 7 per cent higher in 2000 than it was in 1995 (Table 4). Unlicensed anglers under 16 years of age (in households with licensed anglers) fished an additional 108,565 days.

Table 2. Sex composition of active licensed anglers in 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000.

	1985				1990				1995				2000			
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Residents	57,662	87.5	8,243	12.5	58,918	91.6	5,437	8.4	51,799	89.4	6,142	10.6	49,513	88.4	6,518	11.6
Nonresidents	2,065	93.4	146	6.6	2,823	90.7	288	9.3	2,217	92.0	199	8.0	2,316	92.9	177	7.1
Total	59,727	87.7	8,389	12.3	61,741	91.5	5,725	8.5	54,056	89.5	6,355	10.5	51,829	88.6	6,695	11.4

Table 3. Origin of non-resident licensed anglers in 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000

	1985	1990	1995	2000
Province-State-Order	Number	Number	Number	Number
Canadian				
Newfoundland	6	28	16	12
Prince Edward Island	86	77	101	115
New Brunswick	176	322	284	338
Quebec	88	70	92	103
Ontario	497	461	526	705
Manitoba	6	8	34	0
Saskatchewan	8	8	4	12
Alberta	98	39	44	72
British Columbia	47	41	56	48
Yukon	0	0	8	0
Northwest Territories	16	8	5	0
Canadian Total	1,030	1,062	1,170	1,405
Non-Canadian				
New England, U.S.A.	522	1,106	632	439
Mid-Atlantic, U.S.A.	315	76	249	179
East North Central, U.S.A.	109	76	95	54
West North Central, U.S.A.	50	46	21	16
Mountain, U.S.A.	26	47	23	39
Pacific, U.S.A	11	31	67	40
Alaska, U.S.A.	NA	NA	NA	5
South Atlantic, U.S.A.	172	285	136	118
East South Central, U.S.A	7	17	26	47
West South Central, U.S.A.	36	56	12	25
Europe	11	86	90	219
Non-Canadian Total	1,259	2,216	1,351	1,181
Grand Total	2,289	3,186	2,521	2,586

Licensed resident anglers fished an average of 18.5 days in Nova Scotia in 2000, while the non-resident angler fished an average of 5.4 days. This compares to an average of 19.7 angling days for the resident and 6.4 angling days for the non-resident in 1995.

Angling effort was highest in Halifax, Cape Breton and Lunenburg counties by resident anglers. Non-residents expended 26 per cent of their fishing effort in Inverness county (Table 5). Since 1980, there have generally been moderate and sometimes extreme fluctuations in the level of fishing activity in individual counties. For example, fishing effort in Guysborough county increased by more than 600 percent between 1980 and 1990, then declined about 58 per cent from 1990 to 2000 (Table 4). Kings and Cumberland Counties have also shown dramatic fluctuations in effort over the years.

Harvest

In 2000, licensed anglers caught an estimated 4.7 million fish and retained 2.1 million (45 per cent) of the total number of fish caught (Table 6). This compares with licensed anglers retaining 54 per cent of their catch in 1995, 63.2 per cent in 1990 and 82.2 per cent of their total catch in 1985. Thus licensed anglers released a greater proportion of their catch in 2000 than they did in 1995, 1990 and 1985.

Seventy-one per cent of all active anglers practiced catch and release in 2000, mainly on a voluntary basis. An average of 72 fish were caught per angler in 2000, of which 32 were retained. This compares to an average catch per angler of 63 fish with 34 retained in 1995, 87 fish with 55 retained in 1990 and 82 fish with 67 retained in 1985. Retention varied among species. Only 1.1 per cent of smallmouth bass were retained by anglers, while 96.2 per cent of smelt were kept.

Of freshwater species, speckled (brook) trout, rainbow trout and smallmouth bass were the species most frequently caught in 2000. Saltwater species were also very popular among licensed anglers, especially smelt, however catches declined since 1985 (Table 6). Speckled (brook) trout catches have shown

Table 4. Comparison of angling effort by county in Nova Scotia in 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000.

	Days Fished By Licensed Anglers			
County	1985	1990	1995	2000
Yarmouth	29,929	28,989	47,871	37,523
Digby	31,574	73,356	34,633	44,545
Annapolis	46,114	46,152	50,770	52,314
Kings	58,274	106,036	44,228	29,508
Hants	55,459	41,589	33,097	56,379
Colchester	67,741	63,096	59,572	56,788
Cumberland	49,778	88,812	44,280	35,415
Pictou	81,953	67,582	44,087	59,244
Antigonish	25,208	37,284	51,203	30,447
Inverness	53,406	73,727	69,068	41,417
Victoria	64,273	32,977	71,866	56,158
Cape Breton	157,446	158,797	109,403	111,530
Richmond	22,699	51,510	49,139	38,692
Guysborough	93,434	168,698	75,725	70,277
Halifax	262,256	219,970	215,116	253,296
Lunenburg	79,750	130,839	101,839	128,193
Queens	24,482	38,950	32,276	36,452
Shelburne	15,158	20,100	18,657	25,386
Total	1,215,934	1,448,464	1,152,870	1,163,590

Table 5. Angling effort by county in Nova Scotia in 2000.

County Fished	Days Fished					
	Residents		Non-residents		Total	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Yarmouth	37,014	3.2	509	3.6	37,523	3.2
Digby	44,507	3.9	38	0.3	44,545	3.8
Annapolis	51,470	4.5	884	6.0	52,314	4.5
Kings	29,425	2.6	83	0.6	29,508	2.5
Hants	56,154	4.9	226	1.6	56,379	4.8
Colchester	55,966	4.9	822	5.9	56,788	4.9
Cumberland	34,778	3.0	638	4.5	35,415	3.0
Pictou	58,855	5.1	390	2.8	59,244	5.1
Antigonish	30,146	2.6	201	1.4	30,447	2.6
Inverness	37,797	3.3	3,621	25.8	41,417	3.6
Victoria	55,230	4.8	927	6.6	56,158	4.8
Cape Breton	109,625	9.5	1,906	13.6	111,530	9.6
Richmond	38,590	3.4	101	0.7	38,692	3.3
Guysborough	69,618	6.1	660	4.7	70,277	6.0
Halifax	251,573	21.9	1,723	12.3	253,296	21.8
Lunenburg	127,536	11.1	658	4.7	128,193	11.0
Queens	35,966	3.1	486	3.5	36,452	3.1
Shelburne	25,316	2.2	70	0.5	25,386	2.2
Total	1,149,564	100	14,027	100	1,163,590	100

Table 6. Number of fish caught and retained by resident and non-resident anglers in Nova Scotia in 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000.

Fish Species	1985			1990			1995			2000		
	Number Caught	Number Retained	% Retained	Number Caught	Number Retained	% Retained	Number Caught	Number Retained	% Retained	Number Caught	Number Retained	% Retained
Speckled Trout	2,295,695	1,711,875	74.6	2,035,523	1,243,482	61.1	1,324,900	632,330	47.7	1,560,416	602,143	38.6
Rainbow Trout	276,883	228,765	82.6	167,702	105,242	62.8	201,841	117,254	58.1	211,296	137,551	65.1
Brown Trout	65,063	49,228	75.7	72,172	53,081	73.5	61,601	38,220	62.0	54,673	24,094	44.1
Grey Trout**	NA	NA	NA	40,690	30,310	74.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Atl. Salmon	24,322	9,427	38.8	31,320	13,896	44.4	13,818	2,921	21.1	11,162	427	3.8
L-L. Salmon	NA	NA	NA	6,014	3,510	58.4	7,125	1,231	17.3	5,002	1,353	27.1
Yellow Perch	164,264	55,232	33.6	400,556	34,098	8.5	248,048	15,553	6.3	135,575	2,330	1.7
White Perch	30,758	11,758	37.6	217,639	27,771	12.8	116,597	20,719	17.8	80,620	10,347	12.8
Chain Pickerel	1,201	1,092	90.9	26,388	2,189	8.3	63,892	7,457	11.7	68,879	8,780	12.7
Striped Bass***	18,628	8,772	47.1	20,695	11,248	54.4	28,050	18,222	70.0	30,790	1,862	6.0
Small. Bass	81,035	18,007	22.2	439,073	15,482	3.5	337,061	14,745	4.4	998,487	10,929	1.1
Smelt	1,859,438	1,845,668	99.3	1,187,807	1,161,823	97.8	867,579	766,726	88.4	744,329	715,996	96.2
Mackerel	327,560	325,474	99.4	681,745	615,262	90.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cod	132,916	118,381	89.1	205,380	179,379	87.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA*	NA
Flounder	53,208	51,999	97.7	95,600	71,179	74.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pollock	84,036	23,294	27.7	137,438	68,864	50.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Shad	NA	NA	NA	75,168	53,721	71.5	19,646	12,101	61.6	48,382	4,080	8.4
Other	171,773	134,260	78.2	62,096	38,453	61.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other Fresh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	40,400	25,901	64.1	22,387	11,691	52.2
Other Salt	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	472,106	374,886	79.4	686,427	548,064	79.8
Total Fish	5,586,780	4,593,010	82.2	5,903,006	3,728,989	63.2	3,802,663	2,048,266	53.9	4,658,425	2,083,295	44.7

NA: Not Available. * Includes released fish. ** Possible confusion with speckled trout. *** Possible confusion with white perch.

Table 7. Number of active resident anglers who reported fishing for each species, number of days fished and catch per angler in Nova Scotia in 2000.

Species	# of Anglers	# of Days	Days Per Angler	Catch/day Per Angler	Total Catch Per Angler
Speckled Trout	44,829	584,342	12.9	2.71	35
Rainbow Trout	18,587	242,879	13.0	0.85	11
Brown Trout	8,827	88,643	9.8	0.61	6
Smallmouth Bass	10,253	165,261	16.0	6.06	97
Atlantic Salmon	1,710	25,591	12.6	0.56	7
Yellow Perch	3,527	33,378	9.3	4.09	38
White Perch	3,169	27,339	8.6	2.91	25
Chain Pickerel	3,373	31,624	9.3	2.15	20
Smelt	5,216	50,848	9.7	22.78	221
Landlock Salmon	1,734	11,417	6.4	0.47	3
Striped Bass	4,217	33,873	7.9	0.89	7
Shad	2,484	13,507	5.3	3.58	19
Other Freshwater	1,497	12,549	8.1	1.85	15
Other Saltwater	14,356	109,862	7.6	6.29	47.8

their first increase since 1980. Smallmouth bass catches were almost three times higher than they were in 1995. Atlantic salmon catches continue to decline and are at their lowest since 1980.

Table 7 details resident angler effort and catch by species. Speckled (brook) trout were fished by 80 per cent of resident anglers, while landlocked salmon were fished by only 3.1 per cent. Daily catches for residents in 2000 varied from species to species. Over the entire fishing season resident anglers on average each caught a total of 221 smelt, 97 smallmouth bass, 38 yellow perch and 35 speckled (brook) trout.

Table 8 shows that the decrease in catch for brown trout and yellow perch between 1995 and 2000 was accompanied by a decrease in the number of resident anglers who fished these species. On the other hand, an increase in catch of speckled (brook) trout occurred despite decreased numbers of anglers fishing for the species, as well as a decrease in the number of days that anglers targeted this species (Table 7). The drop in smelt catches was accompanied by a decrease in anglers and a decrease in the number of days fished. The substantial increase (196 per cent) in smallmouth bass catches may be partially explained by the increase in the number of days fished and increase in number of anglers.

Table 8. Number of resident anglers who reported fishing for each species and total catch per resident angler in 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000.

Fish Species	Number of Resident Anglers				Total Catch Per Resident Angler			
	1985	1990	1995	2000	1985	1990	1995	2000
Speckled Trout	53,418	49,147	46,056	44,829	42	41	28	35
Rainbow Trout	20,068	15,898	18,115	18,587	14	10	11	11
Brown Trout	8,359	9,824	10,139	8,827	8	7	6	6
Lake (Grey) Trout	NA	5,730	NA	NA	NA	7	NA	NA
Smallmouth Bass	3,668	5,970	8,567	10,253	21	73	39	97
Atlantic Salmon	4,433	6,457	2,936	1,710	5	5	4	7
Yellow Perch	3,688	4,539	6,085	18,587	44	88	41	38
White Perch	1,828	4,109	4,620	8,827	16	53	25	25
Pickerel	NA	850	2,387	44,829	NA	31	27	20
Smelt	8,378	7,213	6,241	5,216	222	165	139	221
Mackerel	9,315	13,100	NA	NA	35	52	NA	NA
L-L. Salmon	NA	1,241	1,615	1,734	NA	5	4	3
Striped Bass	3,511	3,793	3,384	4,217	5	5	8	7
Cod	4,886	4,745	NA	NA	27	43	NA	NA
Flounder	2,999	2,781	NA	NA	18	34	NA	NA
Pollock	3,499	2,766	NA	NA	24	49	NA	NA
Shad	NA	4,133	2,866	2,484	NA	18	7	19
Other	5,088	1,839	NA	NA	34	33	NA	NA
Other Freshwater	NA	NA	2,586	1,497	NA	NA	15	15
Other Saltwater	NA	NA	11,649	14,356	NA	NA	40	48

NA = Not Available

Table 9. Angler preference by species in Nova Scotia in 2000.

Preference Order	Residents		Non-residents	
	Species	Per Cent of Responses	Species	Per Cent of Responses
1	Speckled Trout	42.2	Speckled Trout	34.3
2	Rainbow Trout	20.9	Atlantic Salmon	26.8
3	Smallmouth Bass	8.6	Rainbow Trout	14.1
4	Brown Trout	8.2	Brown Trout	10.8
5	Atlantic Salmon	7.5	Smallmouth Bass	6.6
6	Other Saltwater Fish	3.2	Striped Bass	2.5
7	Smelt	2.6	Other Saltwater Fish	1.3
8	Striped Bass	2.0	Landlocked Salmon	1.1
9	White Perch	1.3	Chain Pickerel	0.4
10	Landlocked Salmon	1.3	Shad	0.4
11	Shad	1.0	Other Freshwater Fish	0.4
12	Chain Pickerel	0.9	White Perch	0.3
13	Yellow Perch	0.3	Smelt	0.3
14	Other Freshwater Fish	0.0	Yellow Perch	0.3

Preference

Speckled (brook) trout was the preferred species for both resident and non-resident anglers in Nova Scotia in 2000 (Table 9). This was followed by rainbow trout by residents and Atlantic salmon by non-residents. Smallmouth bass were the third most popular fish for residents and the fifth most popular fish for non-residents. Overall the trout and salmon species were preferred by 80 per cent of the residents and 87 per cent of the votes by non-residents.

Motivations and Attitudes

Anglers were asked how many years they had fished for recreation in Nova Scotia. The average number of years for resident anglers was 27 and approximately 8 for non-residents.

When asked to rate their fishing experience in Nova Scotia in 2000, 60 per cent of the resident anglers rated their fishing experience as good, very good or excellent. Sixty-six per cent of the non-resident anglers gave a similar rating of their fishing experience in Nova Scotia in 2000. These percentages represent an increase from 54 per cent for residents and a decrease from 74 per cent for non-residents in 1995. Thus, while overall catches have increased and, on average, resident anglers rated their fishing experience higher in 2000 than 1995, non-resident anglers rated their fishing experience lower than 1995.

Anglers who had fished in the province for five years were asked if they thought the fishing had declined from 1995 to 2000. Forty-three per cent of the resident anglers said yes. Residents attributed the decline in fishing mainly to acid rain, pollution, overfishing and habitat degradation (Table 11). When asked to rate a number of options for improving recreational fishing in Nova Scotia, resident anglers favoured, in order of priority, more stocking programs, increased enforcement and habitat improvement (Table 10).

Resident anglers spent an average of 7 days on volunteer activities (habitat clean-up, constructing fishways, etc.). Those who actually carried out these activities averaged 25 days per person.

Only 7 per cent of resident anglers belonged to an organized angling or wildlife association in 2000 (a decline from 9% in 1995).

When asked if they had participated in fishing derbies or tournaments in Nova Scotia in 2000, 10 per cent of the anglers said yes, although 68 per cent supported holding these events in Nova Scotia.

Table 10. Management options rated by resident anglers for improving recreational fishing in Nova Scotia.

Options	Rating*
Improve stocking programs	3.96
Increased enforcement	3.41
More habitat improvement	3.34
Size limits	2.10
More special regulations	1.90
Increased facilities (eg. boat ramps)	1.71
Introduce shorter seasons	1.53
Reduce bag limits	1.39

*Rated on a scale of (not important) to 5 (extremely important).

Table 11. Average rating of factors responsible for the decline in recreational fishery since 1995

Factors	Mean Rating Score (0-5)*
	Residents
Acid Rain	3.04
Habitat Degradation	2.78
Pollution (i.e. pesticides)	2.69
Water Use Conflicts (eg. aquaculture, agriculture, power development, etc.)	2.39
Overfishing	2.39
Poaching	1.89
Competition from Introduced Fish (non-native & enhanced stocks)	1.73

* Rated on a scale of 0 (not important) to 5 (extremely important)

Table 12. Summary of trips by non-resident anglers to N.S. in 2000.

Trip Information	Number
Total Trips to Nova Scotia - All Reasons	10,079
Trips to Nova Scotia For Fishing	3,792 (37.6% of total)
- Day trips for fishing	1,029
- Overnight trips for fishing	2,763
Days Spent in Nova Scotia for All Reasons	41,315
Days Spent Fishing in Nova Scotia	26,608 (64.4% of total)
Total number of nights	25,039

Table 13. Expenditures directly attributable to sport fishing in N.S. in 2000.

Expenditures	Residents	Non-residents	Total
Food and Lodging	$6,401,049	$1,067,208	$7,468,257
Transportation	$6,824,080	$468,432	$7,292,512
Fishing Services	$1,115,882	$185,398	$1,301,280
Fishing Gear	$4,760,428	$96,820	$4,857,248
Packages	$181,198	$151,824	$333,022
Other	$50,260	$39,434	$89,604
Total	$19,332,897	$2,009,116	$21,342,013
Average Per Active Angler	$345.04	$805.90	$364.67

Table 14. Comparison of expenditures directly attributable to sport fishing in Nova Scotia in 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000.

Expenditures	1985	1990	1995	2000
Food and Lodging	$6,129,655	$8,085,110	$6,792,616	$7,468,257
Transportation	$6,816,296	$10,302,926	$6,148,467	$7,292,512
Fishing Services	$595,452	$1,047,574	$1,257,156	$1,301,280
Fishing Gear	$1,356,881	$2,465,332	$4,390,314	$4,857,248
Packages	$253,752	$423,876	$381,905	$333,022
Other	$46,938	$121,314	$56,166	$86,694
Total	$15,198,964	$22,446,132	$19,026,624	$21,342,013
Average Per Active Angler	$223.13	$332.70	$314.95	$364.67

Table 15. Major purchases of durables and property attributable in whole or in part to sport fishing in N.S. in 2000.

Expenditures	Residents		Non-Residents		Total	
	All Purpose	Fishing	All Purpose	Fishing	All Purpose	Fishing
Fishing Equipment	$3,062,468	$3,062,468	$362,554	$45,866	$3,108,334	$3,108,334
Boats and Related Equipment	$11,792,333	$9,455,196	$14,286	$2,953	$11,807,619	$9,458,149
Camping Equipment	$5,211,131	$1,667,955	$188,074	$10,617	$5,399,205	$1,678,572
Special Vehicles (ATV's etc)	$34,065,631	$11,763,418	$6,842	5,222	$34,072,473	$11,768,640
Land and Buildings	$15,715,541	$7,844,040	$92,957	$33,671	$15,808,498	$7,877,712
Other	$1,539,539	$1,374,492	$13,529	$12,156	$1,553,067	$1,386,648
Total	$71,386,642	$35,167,569	$362,830	$110,484	$71,749,196	$35,278,055
Average Per Active Angler	$1,274.06	$627.64	$145.54	$44.32	$1,225.95	$602.80

Trip Characteristics

Non-resident anglers made 10,079 trips to Nova Scotia in 2000, or about 3.9 trips per angler (Table 12). This was up from the 6,754 trips reported in 1995. Fishing activity occurred on 37.6 per cent of the trips to the province. Seventy-three per cent of the fishing trips by non-resident anglers lasted more than a day. The average length of a multiple day fishing trip was 9.1 nights (compared to 9.7 nights in 1995).

When non-resident anglers were asked what they would do if no fishing opportunities were available, 55 per cent stated they would substitute other activities, 21 per cent would not have come to the province, and 18 per cent would have stayed a shorter time.

Expenditures and Investments

In 2000, anglers spent $21.3 million in Nova Scotia on supplies and services directly connected with their sport (Table 13). Average expenditures per active angler were $365 for residents and $806 for non-residents. The largest share of expenses (69 per cent) was spent on food, lodging and transportation. Table 14 shows that in 2000, direct expenditures on recreational fishing were 12 per cent higher than they were in 1995 ($19.0 million) but 5 per cent lower than they were in 1990 ($22.4 million) (their amounts have not been adjusted for inflation).

Nova Scotia anglers invested $71.7 million on major durables and property in 2000, of which $35.2 million or 49 per cent was attributed by anglers to their sport fishing activities (Table 15) Special vehicles (ATV's, snowmobiles, camper trucks, etc.) were the most popular items, accounting for almost a third of the total purchases. Resident anglers were responsible for 99 per cent of the investments. Table

16 shows that in 2000, major purchases attributable to fishing were 61.5 per cent higher than they were in 1995 ($21.8 million) and 7.8 per cent higher than they were in 1990 ($32.7 million).

Overall, Nova Scotia anglers spent a total of $56.5 million on their sport in 2000, of which $21.3 million was on supplies and services and $35.2 million was on major durables and property for fishing. The average expenditure per angler on supplies and services was $364.67, while the average investment in durables and property for fishing was $602.80.

Table 16. Comparison of major purchases of durables and property attributable in whole or part to the recreation fishery in Nova Scotia in 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000.

Expenditures	1985	1990	1995	2000
Fishing Equipment	$2,028,648	$3,614,153	$2,900,872	$3,108,334
Boats and Related Equipment	$6,279,402	$8,303,508	$9,240,051	$9,458,149
Camping Equipment	$4,855,395	$3,951,822	$2,313,619	$1,678,572
Special Vehicles (ATV's etc)	$22,274,511	$32,808,124	$19,948,856	$11,768,640
Land and Buildings	$12,353,664	$12,337,932	$9,557,950	$7,877,712
Other	$967,846	$1,387,994	$1,549,424	$1,386,648
Total For All Purpose	$48,759,466	$62,403,533	$45,530,772	$71,749,196
Total Attributable to Sport Fishing	$19,241,802	$32,730,094	$21,844,053	$35,278,055

Conclusions

The results of the 2000 survey of sport fishing in Nova Scotia show that angling remains a popular recreational activity and although there has been a small increase in participation, there has been a substantial increase in expenditures in the past five years.

In 2000 some 58,524 licensed anglers participated in the sport, 56,031 of whom were residents of Nova Scotia and 2,470 of whom were non-residents, mainly from other parts of Canada. License sales increased between 1995 and 2000 by 1.2 per cent. Conversely, the number of active adult anglers dropped (3.1 per cent). Fishing activity was heaviest in Halifax, Lunenburg and Cape Breton counties.

Licensed anglers spent approximately 1.2 million days fishing in Nova Scotia in 2000 similar to the amount of time they spent fishing in the Province in 1995. The total catch by licensed anglers was estimated at 4.7 million fish, 45 per cent of which were retained. The total catch was 22.5 per cent higher in 2000 compared to 1995 and anglers released a greater proportion of their catch in 2000 than they did in 1995. Rainbow trout, brown trout and speckled (brook) trout were the freshwater species most frequently retained in 2000 and accounted for 50 per cent of the total harvest.

The majority of anglers indicated that they thought fishing had declined from 1995 to 2000, despite increased catch, and recommended more stocking and habitat enhancement programs to improve the fishery. In spite of this apparent decline in the quality of the fishery, 60 per cent of resident and 66 per cent of non-resident anglers rated their fishing experience in Nova Scotia as good to excellent.

In 2000, Nova Scotia anglers spent a total of $21.3 million on supplies and services for their sport, most of which went to pay for food, lodging and transportation. This was 12 per cent more than they spent on supplies and services in 1995 but 5 per cent less than in 1990. An additional $35.2 million was spent on major durables and property for fishing. The total of $56.5 million on recreational fishing in Nova Scotia shows an increase of 38.1 per cent from 1995.

In terms of major purchases, Nova Scotia anglers invested $71.7 million in durables and property in 2000, $35.2 million of which they attributed to their sport fishing activities. This was 61 per cent higher than they invested in durables and property in 1995. Overall, Nova Scotia anglers spent a total of $56.6 million on recreational fishing in 2000.

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